



## **Tips for** Grandparents *who are* Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

These simple suggestions have been developed by the Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois to assist older adult caregivers in their efforts to provide quality care for their family's children. The Task Force can be reached through the Illinois Department on Aging's toll-free Senior HelpLine, **1-800-252-8966** (Voice and TTY).

### **Child Only Grant**

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families  
(TANF)

TANF provides financial assistance in the form of cash assistance to help families care for children who need help. This program also provides help to children who have been deprived of parental support or care.

The child will automatically receive **medical assistance** with a Child Only Grant.

If you are a working grandparent and receive a Child Only Grant, you can also get **daycare paid** for the children (with no co-payment).

If the grandparent chooses not to apply for or receive the cash assistance, the grandparent has the option of applying only for medical assistance for the child.

**You do not have to be a guardian of the child to receive TANF.**

Grandchildren with no income of their own, under their grandparent's care, are eligible to receive Child Only grants under the TANF program.

**The grandparent's income and assets are not counted in the child's eligibility.**

The following factors must be established to be eligible for a TANF Child Only Grant:

1. Prove you are related to the child through birth certificates and/or other legal documents.
2. Prove that the child is living with you. Letters from a neighbor, school, doctor, child care provider or clergy are acceptable.
3. Provide proof of the grandchild's citizenship; that the child was born in the United States. If the child is not a U.S. citizen, provide proof of immigration status.
4. Provide a Social Security number for each child applying for assistance. If the child does not have one, you will need to apply for one at the Social Security Office and bring proof of that application.
5. Provide proof of health insurance, if the child has health insurance.
6. Provide proof of any income and/or assets belonging to the grandchild.
7. You will be asked to provide information about the birth parents, and cooperate in attempting to obtain child support from them. You do not have to do this if it may harm you or the child. You will still be able to obtain a Child Only grant.

If you receive a TANF Child Only grant, and if either or both non-custodial parents pay child support for the child(ren), the child support payment must go to the State.

The Department of Human Services will give you the full TANF Child Only grant, plus \$50.00 of the child support payment each month.

If the child support payment is more than the Child Only grant, you will get all of the child support payment plus medical assistance, but not the TANF Child Only grant payment.

**For additional information, call**  
**1-800-323-GROW**  
**(1-800-323-4769, Voice and TTY)**